



## June 2003 -- Conservation Successes

### Community Makes a Splash in Indiana

Pool renovation is a refreshing change



Fort Wayne, IN (June 12, 2003) - City officials and the public joined together to celebrate the renovation of the bathhouse and swimming pool at Memorial Park. This much-needed facility was funded with a 2002 Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) grant. George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Superintendent Dale Phillips represented the Midwest Region Grants staff and provided an impressive National Park Service presence at the dedication ceremony. While the weather was less-than-favorable, the spirit of the participants was not dampened, and many children were eager to inaugurate the new pool. Prior to the renovation, the facilities were on the brink of

being closed in this densely populated, minority neighborhood. Memorial Park falls within the Urban Enterprise Zone and improvements were a key part of the Urban Enterprise Association rehabilitation plan. The project is also part of a major urban renewal project spearheaded by the city of Fort Wayne, called the Jefferson Corridor Project. The association has volunteered to help keep costs down by patrolling and maintaining the area to discourage graffiti. For more information, please contact Marilyn Gillen, Outdoor Recreation Planner at [marilyn\\_gillen@nps.gov](mailto:marilyn_gillen@nps.gov) or 402-221-3292.

### Thousands Celebrate on Closed Freeway

Southern Californians Shun Cars to Celebrate  
Arroyo Seco Watershed Region

Los Angeles, CA (June 15, 2003) - Approximately 5500 people gathered for the unprecedented opportunity to bike and walk the historic Arroyo Seco Parkway, a recently-designated National Scenic Byway, for the inaugural ArroyoFest celebration of the Arroyo Seco region in Los Angeles County, CA. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about the unique transportation, environmental, and cultural challenges and opportunities surrounding the Arroyo. The Parkway parallels the Arroyo Seco, a 22-mile canyon stream which flows from the Angeles National Forest through several cities and communities before joining the Los Angeles River northeast of downtown LA. Efforts to restore the 46.6 square mile Arroyo Seco watershed have been catalyzed through the vision of local non-profit organizations North East Trees and the Arroyo Seco Foundation which have been receiving assistance through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA). RTCA



National Center for Recreation and Conservation programs:  
- Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) -  
- National Trails System (NTS) - Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) -  
- Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) - Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (PWSR) -

assisted in the development of the watershed restoration feasibility study through outreach, research and document development. As part of outreach efforts, RTCA provided support to the planning and execution of the ArroyoFest event which was largely coordinated through Occidental College's Urban and Environmental Policy Institute. The watershed project has also received support through RTCA's Art & Community Landscapes program. For more information, contact Anne Dove, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at [anne\\_dove@nps.gov](mailto:anne_dove@nps.gov) or 323-441-9307.

## **National Register Designation for Some of America's Oldest Surviving Utopian Communities**

### **Community Planning Re-Energized in Northern Delaware**

New Castle County, DE (May 30, 2003) – The U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service officially listed the villages of Arden, Ardentown, and Ardencroft on the National Register of Historic Places as the Ardens Historic District. The listing represents the culmination of a seven-year comprehensive conservation planning process for the villages, which have exceptional integrity as the oldest extant utopian communities in America. Working with the Naamans Creek Watershed Association, Landmark Quest Committee, Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee, DE Department of Transportation, the DE State Historic Preservation Office, and University of DE, the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) assisted watershed planning efforts. RTCA has also provided extensive input on the National Register nomination and a current traffic calming project that will address pedestrian safety within the Ardens. National Register listing helps move the communities towards possible National Historic Landmarks designation. The efforts of the Ardens to preserve cultural continuity and protect their special resources have inspired adjacent communities to undertake similar planning projects. For more information, please contact Julie Bell, RTCA project planner, Philadelphia, PA, at [julie\\_bell@nps.gov](mailto:julie_bell@nps.gov) or 215-597-6473.

## **Surplus Correctional Land Becomes Largest Regional Park In Alabama**

### **Community obtains site to create multi-use, natural resource-based park**



Talladega, AL (May 1, 2003) – The National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks program transferred 2,832.4 acres to Talladega County, Alabama, for public park and recreation use. This is by far the largest city or county public regional park in all of Alabama. Since the inception of the Federal Lands to Parks Program in 1949, this is the fifth largest acreage conveyed to a state or local government nationwide, and the fourth largest conveyance in the Southeast Region.

The property will be transferred at no cost. Passive and active recreation will be developed in phases, including nature study, hiking and nature trails, wildlife observation stations, equestrian trails, bicycle trails, all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails, camping, hunting, and fishing. Valued at \$3,682,120, the property was originally acquired in 1941 by the U.S. Army for their Coosa River Ordnance Plant. In the 1950s, the property was used for military storage until it was included on the 1988 round of military base closings (BRAC) when The U.S. Bureau of Prisons obtained the property in 1991 for a storage facility. The transfer was negotiated by NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff. For more information, please contact:

National Center for Recreation and Conservation programs:  
- Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) -  
- National Trails System (NTS) - Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) -  
- Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) – Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (PWSR) -

Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, Atlanta, GA, at [bill\\_huie@nps.gov](mailto:bill_huie@nps.gov) or 404-562-3175.

[Click to see an archive of Conservation Successes](#)

---

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project.

This e-mail newsletter may be copied or redirected. To add or remove your name to the electronic mailing list, please call (202) 354-6900 or e-mail [sally\\_grate@nps.gov](mailto:sally_grate@nps.gov). Please submit reports for future newsletters by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to: Corita Jones, RTCA, [corita\\_jones@nps.gov](mailto:corita_jones@nps.gov)

National Center for Recreation and Conservation programs:  
- Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) -  
- National Trails System (NTS) - Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) -  
- Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) - Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (PWSR) -